

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraphs appearing on pages 1, line 18 through page 2, line 2 with the following paragraphs:

Food storage containers as well as containers with lids and bases having deformable interlocking rims are well known in the art. Such containers may include stacking shoulders as is seen, for example, in United States Patent ~~Application~~-No. 6,467,647 to *Tucker et al.* as well as United States Patent ~~Application~~-No. 6,170,696 also to *Tucker et al.* The '647 and 696 patents are directed to plastic containers including a lid and base wherein the rim of the lid and rim of the base have cut back portions around their periphery to form at least two continuous seals around the periphery of the container. So also, there is shown in United States Patent ~~Application~~-No. 6,460,716 to *Wong* a plastic container including a lid and a base each of which has a flange and an inverted U-shaped rim. The flanges and rims mate to form four seals. A large horizontal seal is provided and two air pockets between seals allow for easy opening.

United States Patent ~~Application~~-No. 6,196,404 to *Chen* shows a container with a lid and base which form a series of three self reinforcing seals. A protrusion on the lid reinforces the triple seal between the lid and base by applying force to the base, locking the lid and base together.

Please replace the paragraphs appearing on pages 2, line 25 through page 4, line 6 with the following paragraphs:

In United States Patent ~~Application~~-No. 6,056,138 to *Chen* there is disclosed a triple seal container including both a base and a lid. The base is a unitary component including a bottom portion attached to an upwardly extending perimeter wall which is further connected to a peripherally extending rim having an inner and outer edge. The lid also consists of a unitary component with a downwardly extending wall which is connected to a peripherally extending rim also having an inner and outer edge. Upon contact, the edges of the rims form three main seals.

Numerous means have been employed to form rim seals between lids and bases of containers. For example, there is seen in United States Patent ~~Application~~-No. 6,260,729 to *Mitchell et al.* a highly elastic sealing cover for covering food containers or dishes which includes an accordion like construction so as to be adaptable to a variety of bases.

In United States Patent ~~Application~~-No. 6,021,917 to *Lovell et al.* there is disclosed a plastic lid for a pail. The lid has a substantially planar central section and a peripheral channel. The channel fits over the pail to effect closure thereof. The central section is spaced from the channel by a groove and a ridge each of which extend around the lid juxtaposed to the channel with a groove being adjacent to the channel. Another pail/lid combination is seen in United States Patent ~~Application~~-No. 5,328,047 to *Smith*. In the '047 patent there is disclosed a double locking cover which has a substantially J-shaped locking tip which fits into locking engagements with a ring on the pail.

United States Patent ~~Application~~-No. 5,377,860 to *Littlejohn et al.* discloses a food container which is a combination of base portion and a lid portion made from resilient polymeric material. The base is a unitary component including an upwardly projecting peripherally extending sealing rim having inner and outer sealing regions. The lid is also a unitary component including a peripherally extending sealing channel correspondingly shaped to receive the sealing rim of the base and particularly to engage the rim at the inner and outer sealing areas.

In addition to sealing rims, various features have been incorporated into food sealing containers such as vents, freshness indicators and the like. As to vents the following art is representative: United States Patent ~~Application~~-No. 6,305,546 to *Saunders et al.*; United States Patent ~~Application~~-No. 5,780,824 to *Matos*; United States Patent ~~Application~~-No. 5,750,967 to *Sprauer, Jr.*; United States Patent ~~Application~~-No. 5,039,001 to *Kinigakis et al.*; United States Patent ~~Application~~-No. Re. 32,739 to *Terauds*; United States Patent ~~Application~~-No. 4,261,504 to *Cowan*; United States Patent No. 4,574,174 to *McGonigle*; and United States Patent ~~Application~~ No. 3,873,735 to *Chalin et al.*

Indicators for identifying container contents and/or freshness indicators for containers are known in the art. There is shown for example in United States Patent Application No. 3,974,916 to *Bartolucci* a cup cover with a plurality of raised, dome-shaped portions each of which is capable of manual eversion. Visible indicia associated with each raised portion and identifying a variety of contents which can be placed in the cup around the raised dome-shaped portions. Manual eversion of a selected raised portion thus alters the appearance of the portion to provide a visual indication of the identity of the particular contents of the cup. Other containers associated with identifying indicia are shown in the following patents: United States Patent Application No. 5,642,605 to *Tenner et al.*; United States Patent Application No. 5,790,718 also to *Tenner et al.*; United States Patent Application No. 5,839,581 to *Vagedes*; United States Patent Application No. 4,762,248 to *Uhlig*; and United States Patent Application No. 3,818,858 to *Kramer et al.* See, also, United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/277,270 of *Ferretti et al.*, filed March 26, 1999.